What is claimed is:

1.   1. A method of a computer network in establishing
2. communication between a first network device and a second
3. network device, the network including a policy device
4. that controls policy data relating to the communication,
5. the method comprising:
6.   storing policy data in a storage device accessible by a
7.   third network device, the policy data being:
8.   (i)   provided by the policy device in response
9.   to a communication request message from the
10.   first network device to the second network
11.   device, and
12.   (ii)   specifically related to communication
13.   between the first network device and the
14.   second network device;
15.   receiving with the third network device a confirmation
16.   message sent by the second network device in
17.   response to the communication request message, the
18.   confirmation message indicating that the second
19.   network device is prepared to have communications
20.   with the first network device; and
21.   forwarding from the third network device to the first
22.   network device the stored policy data with the
23.   confirmation message.

1.   2. The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the network
2. devices are executing the RSVP protocol.

1   **3.** The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the network

2   devices are executing the IGMP protocol.

1   **4.** The method as defined by claim 1, further comprising:

2   marking data traffic directed from the first network

3   device to the second network device according to

4   the stored policy.

1   **5.** The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the policy

2   device uses Common Open Policy Service (COPS) protocol.

1   **6.** The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the stored

2   policy data includes a Differentiated Services Code Point

3   (DSCP) marking.

1   **7.** The method as defined by claim 1, wherein the stored

2   policy data includes an 802.1p signaling marking.

1   **8.** An apparatus in a computer network for establishing

2   communication between a first network device and a second

3   network device, the network including a policy device

4   that controls policy data relating to the communication,

5   the apparatus comprising:

6   a storage module for storing policy data in a storage

7   device accessible by a third network device, the

8   policy data being:

9   (i)   provided by the policy device in response

10   to a communication request message from the

11   first network device to the second network

12   device, and

13   (ii)   specifically related to communication

14   between the first network device and the

15   second network device; and

16   a message interface module in the third network device

17   that:

18   (i)   receives a confirmation message sent by the

19   second network device in response to the

20   communication request message, the

21   confirmation message indicating that the

22   second network device is prepared to have

23   communications with the first network device,

24   and

25   (ii)   forwards to the first network device the

26   stored policy data with the confirmation

27   message.

1   **9.** The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the network

2   devices are executing the RSVP protocol.

1   **10.** The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the network

2   devices are executing the IGMP protocol.

1   **11.** The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the policy

2   device uses Common Open Policy Service (COPS) protocol.

1   **12.** The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the stored

2   policy data includes a Differentiated Services Code Point

3   (DSCP) marking.

1   **13.** The apparatus as defined by claim 8, wherein the stored

2   policy data includes an 802.1p signaling marking.

1   **14.** A computer program product for use on a computer system

in establishing communication in a computer network
between a first network device and a second network
device, the network including a policy device that
controls policy data relating to the communication, the
computer program product comprising a computer usable
medium having computer readable program code thereon, the
computer readable program code comprising:

program code for storing policy data in a storage
device accessible by a third network device, the
policy data being:

(i)   provided by the policy device in response
to a communication request message from the
first network device to the second network
device, and

(ii)   specifically related to communication
between the first network device and the
second network device;

program code for receiving with the third network
device a confirmation message sent by the second
network device in response to the communication
request message, the confirmation message
indicating that the second network device is
prepared to have communications with the first
network device; and

program code for forwarding from the third network
device to the first network device the stored
policy data with the confirmation message.

15. The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
wherein the network devices are executing the RSVP
protocol.

1 **16.** The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the network devices are executing the IGMP
3 protocol.

1 **17.** The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 further comprising:
3 program code for marking data traffic directed from the
4 first network device to the second network device
5 according to the stored policy.

1 **18.** The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the policy device uses Common Open Policy Service
3 (COPS) protocol.

1 **19.** The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the stored policy data includes a Differentiated
3 Services Code Point (DSCP) marking.

1 **20.** The computer program product as defined by claim 14,
2 wherein the stored policy data includes an 802.1p
3 signaling marking.